

INDIANA IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Component CF.5: – Family supports, services, and resources enhance outcomes for infants and toddlers and their families.

Steering Committee Recommendations: Exceeds Expectations

Baseline Information	Improvement Strategies	Evidence of Change and Benchmarks
<p>(Conclusions from Self-Assessment Components, Indicators and other data sources)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents are involved in the system in a multitude of ways, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ participating on state advisory councils and their committees ▪ participating on local planning councils ▪ working in the system as intake coordinators, service coordinators and other providers ▪ acting as trainers, writers and reviewers of curriculum in the Unified Training System ▪ participating in statewide public forums ▪ acting as members of peer monitoring teams ▪ Information about family-centered practices are embedded in all aspects of provider training as well as written policies and procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective August 1, 2001, a policy went into effect requiring all providers to document family education activity that occurs during service delivery. ▪ A large variety of materials are available to help families understand their roles and responsibilities and to encourage their participation in the early intervention system. Examples are: Family Handbook, the rights booklet, transition booklets, KIDStep magazine, and numerous brochures. ▪ A Family Involvement Fund, provided by the lead agency in collaboration with Part B, supports family participation in local, state and national training events. 228 families accessed this fund in 2001. 	<p>(Strategies from Self-Assessment Components, Indicators and other Improvement sources)</p> <p>STATE SYSTEM AND DATA COLLECTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By May 1, 2003, successful family support strategies will be identified at the local level as a result of a state funded pilot project aimed at making parent contacts at time of entry into the system. ▪ By October 1, 2003, funding will be obligated to continue First Steps support for the family support initiative Family to Family which has 3 goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to identify a minimum of one family in each county who will serve as a point of contact for other families, 2. to identify families who want to participate on the LPCC and to support them in that role, and 3. to identify families who are interested in co-training in the UTS system. ▪ By January 1, 2003, the Outcomes Evaluation Process will be implemented statewide. Data will be used to monitor the program's effectiveness and direct improvement planning in all areas. 	<p>(How improvement will be measured)</p> <p>Evidence of Change: First Steps families receive a variety of supports, services and resources that increases their capacity to enhance their child's development.</p> <p><u>Benchmarks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By June 30, 2003, 80% of all parents who respond to the state transition survey report that they know how to advocate on ways that help their child get the services they need. ▪ By June 30, 2003, data collected during the statewide outcomes evaluation process documents families' access to appropriate supports, services, and resources from the First Steps system.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three evaluation studies of the First Steps system were conducted by independent contractors over the last six years. In each study, a major focus was the responsiveness of the system to family issues and the degree of family satisfaction. Reports were primarily positive. ▪ The lead agency began a stakeholder process in 2000 to develop a series of outcomes at the child, family and community levels that the Part C system would be held accountable for in Indiana. Three outcomes at each level have been identified and indicators established for each outcome. Survey tools have been developed and are being piloted in four counties. The outcomes are : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children attain essential and important developmental skills. 2. Children participate in inclusive community activities, settings and routines. 3. Children (and families) are safe, healthy, and well-nourished. 4. Families participate as members of the early intervention team and carry out recommendations that help them to help their child. 5. Families are connected to other families, associations and organizations for emotional support. 6. Families advocate by exercising their rights in requesting and choosing goals, services, and supports. 7. Communities are informed and promptly refer families to First Steps. 8. Communities welcome and fully include children with disabilities and their families (e.g. childcare, transportation, retail, housing, and employment). 9. Communities provide all families access to health care services. ▪ The new on-line Provider Matrix allows parents and service coordinators to have ready access to information about providers and services that families would benefit from. 	<p>LOCAL SYSTEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By April 1,2003, outcome based contracts will be implemented with LPCCs that include increasing parent participation on local planning councils. <p>TRAINING AND PERSONNEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By January 1, 2003, emphasis on the family's role during IFSP development will be increased in all provider and service coordinator training. <i>An Eligibility Determination Team Pilot was initiated in September, 2002, in Central Indiana counties and included training for ED Team members on this topic. As a direct result of this pilot, an IFSP Agenda document was developed to ensure everyone's participation in IFSP development, in particular the family members.</i> ▪ By October 1, 2002, a variety of strategies will be implemented to better inform families of training opportunities available through the UTS as well as the availability of training funds. <i>The Summer 2002 issue of KIDSteps magazine included the feature article about the Family Involvement Fund that is available to provide financial support to families wishing to attend training. The article was presented in both English and Spanish and distributed throughout the state. The ICC Family Support Task Force was identified during the October, 2002, ICC Planning Retreat to help develop a plan to increase knowledge about and use of the Family Involvement Fund and UTS training opportunities.</i> 	<p>Evidence of Change: Family participation/involvement in the First Steps system increases.</p> <p>Benchmarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By June 30,2003, the number of families accessing Family Involvement funds for training increases by 10%. <i>For the period April 1 to September 30, 2002, 440 families accessed funds. This is an increase of 93% over the last figure reported.</i> ▪ By June 30, 2003, parent participation in Local Planning and Coordinating Councils increases by 1 per county. (Baseline will be the number of parent members reported in the county's RFF proposal submitted in August, 2002.)
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